Then you suggested certain principles to be followed by the Government in regard to treatment of encroachments. All these principles have already been laid down by the Government in the rules and if these principles are not followed, then it is for you to say in which case they have not been followed, and to get the mistakes rectified. Just now one member said that, in regard to stones planted on the banks of rivers, there were inaccuracies. We are prepared to concede that the stones might have been planted above flood level; and the Government are prepared to examine such cases. I said that that principle could be extended throughout the State. Orders to that effect have been passed specifically in regard to the rivers in the Shencotta taluk.

MEMBER: Shencottah is subject to epidemics every year and these *poramboke* cases also take that form. But there is this difference. Epidemics occur only in particular months of the year. But these *poramboke* cases exist throughout the year. The people are more afraid of the so-called *poramboke* epidemic.

DEWAN: You are not talking seriously.

MEMBER: My point is that concessions should be given on account of the grave inaccuracies brought to light.

DEWAN: You must give instances.

MEMBER: It is not possible for every individual to bring his own case.

DEWAN: Nor is it possible for the Government to go and examine individual cases.

MEMBER: Even the chain survey cannot be expected to be accurately done by the surveyors. If the surveyors find half a foot of *poramboke*, they take the matter seriously and the poor owner is hard hit.

DEWAN: That depends upon the locality.

MEMBER: What I pray for is that, in such encroachment cases, no action should be taken. If, for a quarter of a cent, proceedings are started, owners of land have to go and wait in the public offices for days together to get orders in their favour. In most cases, these poor people are heavily fined and the situation is that they cannot prefer an appeal.

DEWAN: I understand all that.

MEMBER: Government should help those who cannot help themselves. I speak on behalf of the poor. In such cases arising out of inaccuracies, the Government should exempt the party from the payment of court fees.

DEWAN: I have no objection to consider that point.

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12. Transfer of the Revenue from Income Tax to Municipal Funds.

MR. M. J. JOSEPH (*Member, Municipal Council, Kottayam*) submitted that in the Kottayam Municipal area there were very few cart roads except the M. C. and K. K. roads. As Kottayam was an inland port for the planting areas of Peermade, Mundakayam and Kanjirapalli, those roads were always congested with cart and motor traffic. Passenger motor service with Kottarakara, Ernakulam, Minachil and Mundakayam had also contributed to the congestion. Consequently school-going children, the public resorting to the various offices and pedestrians in general were put to great inconvenience.

Unlike other towns, all the important institutions, public offices and schools in the Kottayam town were situated by the side of busy cross roads. Almost every building on those roads was a vakil's office or a public institution. It was highly necessary that two roads parallel to the K. K. road—one on either side of it—should be constructed immediately to divert the traffic. There were several lanes in Kottayam which should be widened into cart-roads. Some of the public institutions and offices could then be shifted into buildings on the new roads. The price of land was high and the cost of opening the new roads and of widening the lanes would be very heavy.

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In all the other Municipalities of the State, good cart roads had been constructed at public expense before the Municipalities were constituted. All the English schools and almost all the vernacular schools in Kottayam were private institutions. The private agencies maintained enough higher grade institutions as their cost could be met from the fee income. But the provision of elementary schools was totally inadequate for the needs of the town and the provision of adequate accommodation for those schools, which were now mostly held in temporary sheds, would entail heavy outlay.

The growth of general education had created the need for libraries and reading rooms, particularly for the use of the poorer people. The annual allotment for grants-in-aid to reading rooms and libraries was only Rs. 1,500 for the whole State. Compared to the other important Indian States and advanced Districts in British India, Travancore was lagging behind in that respect. The Municipalities would have to make provision for the maintenance of reading rooms. The libraries and reading rooms at Kottayam maintained by voluntary public subscriptions stood in need of assistance from public funds.

The income of the Kottayam Municipality was not sufficient to meet the expenditure under all the above heads and there was no likelihood of the present income increasing considerably in the near future, as all the sources of taxation had been exhausted, and the expenditure was being kept down as low as possible and several urgent departments were being starved. Income tax was an item of revenue to which the Municipality could lay a legitimate claim as the conveniences of the town contributed largely to the increase of that source of revenue. The member therefore prayed that the income tax collected from the Kottayam municipal area might be transferred to the Municipality for a period of at least ten years, *i. e.*, till Kottayam town was supplied with roads and school buildings on the same scale as other major municipal towns were when the Councils were organised.

DEWAN : Mr. Joseph, your suggestion is that two roads parallel to the K. K. road should be opened up in the Kottayam town. You admit that the enterprise will be costly.

In regard to reading rooms and libraries, you say that the Government contribution is very small, and that, in British India and other Indian States, the contribution is much more. I am not aware of that. I believe, in other places also, the encouragement given to reading rooms and libraries is not much more than what we give.

Next you think that all this can be done by adopting your proposal that the income tax collected in the town of Kottayam should be handed over to the Kottayam Municipality for the next ten years. I do not think it will be possible for the Government to ear-mark a particular item of revenue derived from a particular area for a particular purpose. In Travancore, income tax is collected almost wholly from towns. I may say that nearly one-half of it is being collected from the towns of Trivandrum, Nagercoil, Kottayam, Alleppey and Quilon. These are the only towns which contribute the bulk of the income tax with the single exception of the planting areas which contribute about a third or a fourth part of the whole amount. To say that all this amount should be ear-marked for the improvement of towns is a proposition which Government cannot approve. Government have been spending money and are spending money on towns. They are still maintaining all the roads, and they will do as much as possible for towns. But as regards ear-marking the income tax collected from these towns, for however short a period it may be, I must say that it is not possible.

MEMBER : The Government were originally giving grants.

DEWAN : The Government are prepared to grant loans, provided that the Municipalities place definite schemes before the Government. We have sanctioned loans to one or two Municipalities, for instance a loan of over Rs. 30,000 to the town of Shencottah.

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13 The Police Department.

Mr. M. J. JOSEPH (*Member, Municipal Council, Kottayam*) pointed out that the police entered into all the activities of the people in all parts of the State, that, more than any branch of the administration, the police was the mirror and true index of Government, that the utmost care should taken in the territorial distribution of the force and in the recruitment to its ranks, and that it was the duty of the Government to place the members of the force above want and beyond temptation and to afford them facilities for good work.

Excluding the uninhabited hilly tracts, it was said that there was on an average only one policeman for every 3·5 square miles and less than six constables for each *pakuthi*. The policemen were concentrated in towns and mostly employed on duties other than regular police work, with the result that in rural areas, where the people did not live in villages as in British India and the wealth consisted mostly in garden produce like pepper and cocoanut, there was not adequate security of property. Statistics of crime in the State, according to the member, showed that crimes of violence against person and property were greater here than in British India. The inadequacy of the police force could also be realised from the meagre arrangements in stations to hear grievances and enquire into complaints. The member suggested the raising of the strength of the constabulary by 50 per cent. at once and by another 50 per cent. within three years. Every station should be in charge of a responsible head constable and two or three men should always be on duty in each station. The expenditure involved could not be considered exorbitant when it was remembered that the Government of India spent fifty per cent. of its revenues on defence : and the proposal would, if accepted, also provide an opportunity for employment to the hundreds of unemployed school leaving certificate holders. The ideal should be the average of one policeman per square mile, particularly in view of abnormal conditions such as those connected with the Vaikam *satyagraha*. The member paid a high compliment to the genius of Mr. Pitt, the Commissioner of Police, whose presence at Vaikam prevented untoward happenings. The constabulary should be distributed among the various taluks according to their area and population.

The raising of the status of Head Constables and placing them in responsible charge of the routine work of stations were matters, no doubt, of internal administration, but would prove beneficial to the public.

The member said that the department admitted that there was a steady decline in the investigation of cases from 1088, notwithstanding the large number of graduates in the Inspectorate. The hope that, when the new station house officers appointed in 1088 had picked up experience, work would improve, had been falsified. He ascribed it to the fact that uneducated men, without sufficient driving power, supervised the work of Inspectors, the control over whom had also been relaxed. In the prevention and detection of crimes, the complainant was obliged to do all investigation work, the Inspector being merely a "recording angel". Such a state of affairs was due to a dead level of laziness created by inefficient supervision. The six Assistant Superintendents of Police under the present system were no good. Two or three taluks should be grouped together and placed under a superior officer. The mistake of 1088 should not be repeated in filling those posts, to which only men of culture, character and education should be recruited. The member quoted the instance of a District Superintendent of Police utilising the services of a local merchant for purchasing in auction for his own use at a low price two clocks of his own office which he had himself ordered to be auctioned. Such an incident would tend to reduce the respect in which the force controlled by such an officer was held. The number of stations and outposts should be also increased.

When there was a plethora of lawyers, there was hardly any justification for maintaining Prosecuting Inspectors. The work, the volume of which was enough to employ the present staff, could equally well be done by private pleaders. The policy of confining future appointments to graduates in law should also be adopted. The Prosecuting officers were handicapped in that they had no library, no clerk and no office

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staff. Economy in that direction was misplaced. Freer contact of those officers with Sirkar Vakils should be brought about. They could also be utilised for other departmental cases. Rules should be issued widening the functions and duties of Prosecuting Inspectors, giving them a definite status and an adequate staff and insisting on a better and larger amount of work from each of them.

The *personnel* of supervising officers required change. Old methods of investigation were still in force. The experiences of Subrahmanya Pillai, student in the Intermediate class, as narrated in the *Pourapradhu*, dated the 16th Kumbham, 1100, in connection with the Vadavatur murder case and the inability of the police to trace the identity of the murdered man indicated the level of police supervision. He therefore pressed for the entertainment of superior men in the higher ranks of the force.

DEWAN: Mr. Joseph, I think the House must be thankful to you, and I am personally very thankful to you, for the very able and lucid speech you have made in regard to police administration, and the way in which you have drawn attention to certain important matters connected with the department. I am sorry that Mr. Pitt, the Commissioner of Police, is not here to-day to hear you. He had to absent himself on this occasion owing to unavoidable reasons. Had he been here, I think he could have given you some ready answers with regard to some, at any rate, of the points which you raised. But, in his absence, I shall not venture to answer in detail the various points you mentioned. The points you have referred to are important, I quite admit; and they are vital to the administration of the Police Department. I am going to send your speech to Mr. Pitt for close examination and for a definite reply, and I am sure Mr. Pitt will give your speech the attention it deserves and he will tell the Government what he thinks of your various suggestions. I was glad to hear your paying high encomia to Mr. Pitt. So far as I know, he is a very good police officer—one of the best police officers I happen to know—and I am sure that he will not hesitate to say that you are right in any particular in which he thinks you are really right. If he is convinced that you are in the right, he is sure to say that reform is necessary in that direction.

I am very sorry to hear of the case of a D. S. P. purchasing two clocks in an irregular fashion. This is the first time I hear about it. When Mr. Pitt comes to know of this, he will investigate the matter and take the necessary action.

I am not sure whether even Mr. Pitt will be in a position to give you a ready reply to all your points. He may be in a position to meet some of your points. For instance, I do not think you are right in saying that grave crimes are of more frequent occurrence in Travancore than in British India. For, I know personally, there are certain parts in British India where grave crimes occur in much larger numbers. It is my impression that we in this State are exceedingly fortunate in regard to crime. With respect to the question of increasing the number of stations, raising the strength of the constabulary, giving preference to educated over experienced officers, and the supervision of Inspectors, I can only say that these matters are very important. And, as you say, there may be a dead level of laziness on the part of Inspectors. All these are matters you are quite entitled to bring to the notice of the Government and you did well in doing so. I will send your speech to Mr. Pitt for remarks.

14. Economic Development of the Shencottah Taluk.

MR. S. PULIKKANNU TALAVANAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah*) prayed for the development of the cottage industries in the Shencottah taluk. Financial help and expert supervision were required in the case of such industries as weaving, spinning, coir manufacture and pottery. The Director of Industries had not been inspecting the taluk as often as desirable. Lack of capital stood in the way of the people adopting new methods of manufacture. Co-operative societies should be organised for the promotion of industries. Industrial loans should be issued as freely as agricultural loans and on easier terms regarding security. The Director of Industries should arrange for lectures on and demonstration of improved methods.

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